

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Parks & Community Services Administration Building
2601 East Sunset Road, Administration Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120
October 11, 2005
6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: KRISKO, SUSAN (SK)
OLSEN, DENNIS (DO)
POOLER, TOM (TP)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

3. Approval of June 14, 2005 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

4. Update on ordinance amendments going before the Board of County Commissioners

DAVE MARCH (DM) - the following ordinances will be presented to the BCC on October 18 for introduction and November 1, 2005 for public hearings: Sterilization Ordinance, Addition of One member to the AAC to represent horse owners. This change was requested following inquiries from the horse owner communities after Joe Boteilho attended several meetings to educate horse owners on our programs. At their request, the change was drafted to provide horse owners with representation on this Committee. The third item is the requirement of mandatory sterilization for all dogs and cats adopted from the county animal shelter.

TP asked if this was different than something that is already in place. DM – currently under 8 weeks or age, the animal leaves the shelter on a certificate. The change requires that no adopted animal leave the shelter without being sterilized. The animal will not be able to go out the door until it is old enough. Thus far, the shelter has been keeping the animals until they weigh a sufficient amount to be sterilized. We don't anticipate this causing any problems. SK – what about animals that are not healthy enough or have medical reasons why they shouldn't be sterilized. Will there be any way around that? DM – I don't believe so. DO – will the priority items we identified be brought before the County Commission. DM – because of the need for additional personnel to act on the priority items, county staff determined not to take it to the Board.

DO – Animals can be spayed as early as 8 weeks. A 15-year-old animal can be sterilized very safely with some special efforts. I have my own concerns about how many will come through the procedure not because the procedure is unsafe but more the way the procedure is being performed. DM – the shelter does have a weight limit. They won't sterilize an animal that weighs less than 2

lbs. They are keeping cats in one of the tents until those animals reach the minimum weight at which they believe they can do the sterilizations. DO – when it comes to surgical procedure, weight is not the factor – it is the health of the animal and how well the surgical procedure is being performed. You look at the weight to figure out drug doses. If weight is all they are looking at, there will be some problems regarding the health of those animals.

MYRA GLASSMAN, M.D., - under the compulsory sterilization if an animal for health reasons cannot be sterilized will it be euthanized? DM – that would probably be yes. MYRA GLASSMAN – I have some serious concerns. I was at Lied last week and very impressed with how the bungalows are operating. However, in terms of the medical needs of the animals, while I was there 3 people returned animals they had taken to a vet that had multiple medical problems that had not been dealt with. In one case, they spent \$200 to get medication for the animal that had 3 different medical problems, none of which would have required major investigation to find. I am really concerned in terms of whether they are doing the job of checking the animals.

KEN SONDEJ – is that mandatory spay/neuter just for Clark County or will all 3 entities follow the same ordinance? DM – Clark County only. The other entities would have to pass the same requirement.

TP – will there be anything on the permit to differentiate someone's dog who was picked up and not fixed as opposed to the ones who actually buy the permit to own more than 3 animals. DM – no. TP – so the officer goes to someone's house and they show the permit but there is no way to differentiate which kind of permit that is. DM – Whether they have a fancier's permit for 6 dogs or for RAL, it is going to mitigate the issue if they are in violation of some part of the code. TP – let's say they have one dog with a permit. Now they see they can have up to 6 dogs. An officer goes there for a complaint of dogs barking and they show them the permit. Really it is not a permit that lets them have 6 dogs. It is only a permit because they had to buy it for one dog that was not sterilized. Seems to me there would be a way to recognize one or the other. DM – the ultimate point was to make the backyard breeders live up to the same standard as those who are fanciers. If their animals are running loose, they are contributing to the breeding problem. By making them get a permit, we can hold them to the other standards the fanciers are held to and make the same requirements on them. They are going to have to show that dog. They don't just get it because it is not sterilized. They have to live up to the fanciers' requirements and actively show. That way we are able to actively encourage them to sterilize their animals or get them into the show ring where they can participate and be responsible.

5. Report on Animal License Plate Sterilization Program

DM – everyone on the Committee was provided with the proposed application for the vouchers as well as a copy of the voucher itself. We have run the application through the District Attorney Civil Division and they don't see a problem with the form. This application is what we are using for the issuance of vouchers for the money for the license plates. The BCC has to sign off on giving monies even in this fashion in any kind of a program.

KAREN LAYNE – This allows organizations to be reimbursed for spay/neuters that they have done for people who can't afford the spay/neuter. How much money is in this program? DM – On a quarterly basis we will determine how much money is in the fund and how many sterilization vouchers we can issue. Based on the applications, we will divvy those vouchers up. Say your organization gets 100 vouchers with a value up to \$40 depending on the breed and sex of the animal. You work with your veterinarians to accept the vouchers. This is the same program we run every January where a male cat is \$10; a female cat is \$30; a male dog is \$20; a female dog is

\$40. The vets we use accept our vouchers, submit for payment and we pay the vets. KAREN – I assume at some point you are going to sit down with the groups eligible to get this and talk more about the procedural issues. A concern I have is that even with vets who currently provide low cost spay/neuter to us we will still have to subsidize what you are doing. We don't get those prices from the vet. If it appears that groups decide not to use the voucher because of the subsidy, will you talk with the groups to consider increasing those prices and how are you going to do it?

DM – we would have to talk about it at that time. This program was designed after the program we currently run every year primarily for simplicity so we are not trying to run multiple programs throughout the year. The voucher program we run annually with \$30,000 this last year didn't run out until September and we are still waiting for vets to get back the vouchers so we can pay them. It will be a fairly large undertaking to track the paperwork on a quarterly basis to be able to keep this year round. As far as the value, we would have to look at it if we are unable to get it done for that. SK – do you have a list of vets in town that do accept those vouchers at that price? DM - At this time we are getting ready to send out the letters to request vet participation. The vets decide year to year and we do our best to make sure people are aware of any additional fees. Usually people know they have to have their vaccinations current. This year we are actually asking a few more questions; will there be blood work, will they have pain meds, are there things above and beyond the voucher amounts so we can sort it out and have a better idea of what vets are going to take the vouchers. SK – Dr. Olsen does that sound like amounts you see?

DO – dog spay should cost between \$200 and \$300; dog neuter should be between \$85 and \$150; cat spay between \$75 and \$120; cat neuter \$50 and that is bare minimum. At the big clinics in town, a dog spay is going to easily cost \$300. Back in '86 when I first got out of med school, we were charging \$20 for a cat neuter; cat spay was \$35; dog neuter were from \$60 to \$85. I have never seen them this low. But this was meant so that the veterinarian can be a philanthropist, if you will. They can put in some of their own efforts for the good of the animal kingdom. It might be a good idea for people to realize how much it really costs and have a little space on here for how much the surgery should cost and see that the vet is really subsidizing what the county is putting in for it. The voucher prices will not enable anyone to pay for the whole surgery. But as I understand it, they are meant to subsidize. It is not meant to pay for the whole thing. A veterinarian contributes their time, their drugs, their hospital, their technical help for this so we can get rid of a major problem in our society, unsterilized animals wandering around and making more. DM – you are 100% correct. The intent isn't for this program to pay retail. The hope is that the organizations will have veterinarians they work with and that the amounts will offset the costs. This license plate program wouldn't be able to sterilize very many animals at \$300 a pop. SK – I ask that animal control look at this for the next time and how many vets say they would be willing to do this for these amounts and be willing to increase these amounts.

DO – one of the things that is going to happen, you will get an animal that gets an injection, will be lucky to get an endotracheal tube and gas anesthesia, will be lucky if the animal is monitored by someone is able to monitor anesthesia. The aseptic procedures, sterile procedures will be marginal. The only way this changes is if the amount is changed and if everybody realizes it doesn't matter if it is a shelter animal or an owned animal. It doesn't change the amount of care they require.

BRUCE HALSTEAD – I agree with the doctor, just on the pain medicine for 3 days, it is \$30 to \$35 for that one shot. It doesn't cover anesthesia, the blood work. You may not have a lot of cooperation with the vets. It is a good idea, but just on the one medicine alone it doesn't even cover it.

DM – Last year Lied took the voucher at face value with no additional charges. KAREN LAYNE – what kind of monies are we looking at? DM – as I recall the last disbursement brought it up to \$6,000.

6. Information-sharing by Committee Members

SK - We had a lot of support on the spay/neuter. There will be a presentation from us. I would like everyone to know how to apply for the AAC. There will be a 6th person who has to do mainly with horses. DM – contact Roseanne Conforto at 455-8178 and let her know you would like an application. SK - What is the process after that? DM – I am not sure if there is a deadline. Last year we were into February before we had sufficient applicants to seat a board. We will be looking in January to seat a board. If we don't have sufficient applicants, we will have to hold it. If we do, a list is put together and submitted. I don't know what the approval process is. We have one member of the general public, one breeder, one humane organization, one doctor and one member from wildlife or wildlife preservation groups.

7. Comments by the General Public

BRUCE HALSTEAD – take the cats and make them unofficial employees of the county by taking care of the rodents or other problems. Let them help with the problem of pest control. Let's put them to work and let them earn their spay/neuter instead of filling up rescue groups because no one wants to adopt them.

MYRA GLASSMAN - supports Dr. Olsen's suggestion to make sure people know the retail value of these spay and neuters. May be another way of letting the veterinarians know that their contribution is appreciated. Canine influenza out and people may want to avoid dog parks for the next couple months.

DEAN PICKERD – we are not getting the advertisements on our Dog Fanciers book especially from the veterinarians, humane societies, breeders, etc. We only printed up 600 books this year. We printed a 1,000 last year and will probably print less next year. The cost of printing is higher. If you want to advertise for next year's book, get hold of Don Ploke. TP thanked the Silver State Kennel Club for providing the Nevada Dog Fanciers Directories.

MIKE CONNELL – a bill is being slid into the senate to bring in a foreign microchip that operates on 134.5 kilohertz and you have to have a special foreign scanner. All scanners in the U.S. are either AVID or Home Again and work under 125 kilohertz which none of the scanners that any veterinarian, animal shelter or clinic has will work. If that passes all scanners and microchips won't be any good. KEN SONDEJ is the AKC legal legislative liaison for the state of Nevada and we are fighting that now. DM – Banfield has put a microchip on the market and our scanners can't read it.

GINA GREISON – see comments about trailer park closures. Were there ever any answers as to what is going to be done with all the animals for the parks that are closing? DM – animal control worked with those that are on the list for closure. If they had cats loose in the parks, we provided them with cat traps so they could be removed prior to the closure. Many of those parks are already closed and are nothing but dirt any more. We had a list for closures over a period of time and we have worked with all of them in the unincorporated county to assist in removing the cats. GINA GREISON suspects that if people did know vouchers wouldn't include pain medications, etc., they wouldn't even utilize the voucher. She would like clarification on exactly what it includes at each different vet. DM – with regard to license plate program, that is for the groups to work out how

their vets are going to do that and should be able to let you know what costs, if any, are additional. With our program, we are sending out letters to the vets to see who wants to participate and trying to nail them down on what, if any, additional charges there would be and what they would be for. We provide a list to everyone who receives a voucher in January whether it is free, low cost or additional fees.

SK would like an update on Lied on the next agenda. DM – population is much better, they are working on programs to control disease. They are very receptive and the building continues to move forward.

GINA GREISON – is there new management there? DM – they have a new operations manager that started last week. I went through there today, it smells better, it is much cleaner and they are working to adjust schedules to make it work out better to keep up on the cleanliness, keep up on the sick dogs to try to limit exposure and avoid cross contamination.

8. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.